



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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Senator Jason Crowell Contributes to MoDOT's Annual Bridge Building Competition

Sen. Crowell Sponsors New Prize Encouraging Schools to Participate

JEFFERSON CITY— Sen. Jason Crowell (R-Cape Girardeau), recently helped support Missouri students interested in civil engineering by sponsoring a new prize as a part of the Missouri Department of Transportation Southeast District's fourth annual bridge building competition. High school juniors and seniors from throughout the Southeast District came to Cape Girardeau to participate.

"I really appreciate the opportunity to contribute to this year's competition," said Sen. Crowell. "The ingenuity and creativity of these students speaks volumes for their futures in the field of engineering."

A total of 260 students from 30 schools entered this year's competition. Each participant received a bridge building kit containing 20 pieces of balsa wood, a spool of thread, and a bottle of glue. These materials are used to try to create the lightest bridge that can carry the greatest load. This was tested by weighing the bridges, and then loading them with water until they broke or deflected one inch. Individual winners can receive civil engineering scholarships to one of five universities (Southeast Missouri State University, University of Missouri-Rolla, University of Missouri-Columbia, Arkansas State University, and Southern Illinois University).

This year, Sen. Crowell sponsored a new prize for the schools that did the best overall in the competition. Any school with three or more entries was eligible for the prize. Ste. Genevieve High

School received the \$500 first prize, Chaffee High School earned the \$300 second prize, and Saxony Lutheran High School received the \$200 third prize.

“I am really impressed at the amount of effort these students and their teachers put forth into building these bridges,” said Sen. Crowell. “I am pleased I was able to help acknowledge these schools and their teachers for the encouragement they provide to their students.”



Sen. Crowell presents checks to the teachers representing the winning schools. The teachers are (from left) Clayton Cox of Ste. Genevieve High School, Jaron McMurry of Chaffee High School, and Larry Clair of Saxony Lutheran High School.

For high resolution jpeg images of the above pictures, contact Senate Communications at (573) 751-3824 or by e-mail at sreed@senate.mo.gov.

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